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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/593,543	06/14/2000	Stephen P. Forte	T7093.0004/P001	8081

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2101 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, QUYNH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/593,543

Applicant(s)

FORTE, STEPHEN P.

Examiner

Quynh H. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,9-18,28,30-32,36-41 and 43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,9-18,28,30-32,36-41 and 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. Claims 1-4, 10-18, 28, and 30-32, 36-41, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlow et al. (U.S. Patent 5,206,901) in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,329,578).

Regarding claims 1-3, 31, 32, 40, and 41, Harlow et al. teach a receiving module receiving a telephone call (col. 2, lines 32-34); a processor ("switching service point") identifying a dialed telephone number ("a destination directory number" - see Abstract and col. 2, line 12) associated with the call, the processor using the dialed telephone number to retrieve a first telephone number ("primary telephone number"), a second telephone number ("secondary telephone number"), the processor using at least one retrieved user preference ("query the shared database returns routing numbers") to route the call to at least two destination telephone numbers simultaneously (col. 2, lines 25-41), where in the at least two destination telephone numbers are selected from the group including the retrieved first and second telephone numbers and a voice mail box number (col. 8, lines 22-27).

Harlow et al. does not teach the processor authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call.

Brennan et al. teach the processor authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call (col. 9, lines 14-17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of the processor authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call, as taught by Brennan, in Harlow's system in order to make sure the call is routed to the desired/right person in a shared telephone system, and not to any person who answers the telephone call.

Regarding claim 4, Brennan et al. teach the predetermined time corresponds to a number of telephone rings (col. 5, line 60 through col. 6, line 15).

Regarding claims 10 and 15, Harlow and Brennan do not teach the processor receives the call from a private branch exchange or public switched telephone network, and at least one destination is associated with a private branch exchange. Both calls origination and termination could be in the same or different switch, the same switch is the preferred method mentioned in claims 10 and 15.

Regarding claims 11, 12, 16, 36, and 43, Harlow et al. teach the call is routed to a cellular telephone, which can operate independently from the telecommunication device (Fig. 1, 136 and col. 4, lines 6-19).

Regarding claims 13, 14, 37, and 38, Brennan et al. teach the call is routed to a destination associated with a pager or a personal digital assistant (col. 6, lines 42-46).

Regarding claims 17 and 18, Brennan et al. teach the processor is connected to a local area network or the Internet and at least one user preference is input via the local area network or Internet (col. 13, lines 4-14 - *where Brennan discussed user*

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*accesses his or her profile via the service interface, hence via local area network or Internet).*

Claim 28 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Harlow et al. teach a connect unit (Fig. 1, SSP 110); first communication device at an extension of the "communication network" associated with the user (Fig. 1, 111); second communication device to the user (Fig. 1, 112). Network 100 in Harlow has devices extensions off of the communication network (Fig. 1). Brennan et al. also teach network 12 have devices extensions off of the communication network (Fig. 1a) and (col. 9, lines 8-11 and col. 10, lines 17-20 - *where Brennan discussed shared telephone system, hence extension is an extension of the telecommunications network*).

Claims 30 and 39 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Harlow et al. teach the machine-executable control program to perform various functions ("program processor 113 in SSP 110").

3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlow et al. (U.S. Patent 5,206,901) in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent) and further in view of Swan (U.S. Patent (5,978,451).

Regarding claim 9, Harlow and Brennan do not teach the processor prompts a caller of the telephone call with a menu of call destination options and the processor places the call to at least one destination telephone number in accordance with an option selected by the caller.

Swan teaches a caller of the telephone call was prompted with a menu of call destination options and the call is routed to at least one destination telephone number in accordance with an option selected by the caller (col. 7, line 63 through col. 8, line 30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of prompting a caller of the telephone call with a menu of call destination options and route the call to at least one destination telephone number in accordance with an option selected by the caller, as taught by Swan, in Harlow's and Brennan's systems thus making the system more efficient by allowing callers have more control of the desired destination.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 9-18, 28, 30-32, 36-41 and 43 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments are addressed in the above claims rejection.

Applicant argues that none of the references cited teaches a telecommunication device capable of identifying a dialed telephone number associated with the call.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. The dialed telephone number in the instant application is analogous to "a destination directory number" in Harlow and "a personal number" in Brennan.

Applicant argues that the claimed invention employs a multi-threaded architecture that does not connect the inbound call immediately to the remote devices. This is irrelevant and not recited in the claims

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Applicant argues that in Harlow and Brennan, there is no logical state to place the caller while the system waits to get an authentication. Again, this is irrelevant and not recited in the claims. Examiner respectfully submits that Brennan et al. do teach the processor authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call (col. 9, lines 14-17).

Applicant argues that Harlow and Brennan cannot resolve extensions of "the communication network". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Network 100 in Harlow and network 12 in Brennan are communication networks, and there are devices extensions of the communication network 100 in Harlow (Fig. 1) and in Brennan (Fig. 1a) and (col. 9, lines 8-11 and col. 10, lines 17-20 - *where Brennan discussed shared telephone system, hence extension is an extension of the telecommunications network*).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:15 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.

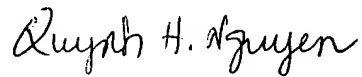
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on 571-272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**Quynh H. Nguyen**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Art Unit 2642**